Yumekui Kenbun
volume 1 chapter 1
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STORM IN HEAVEN
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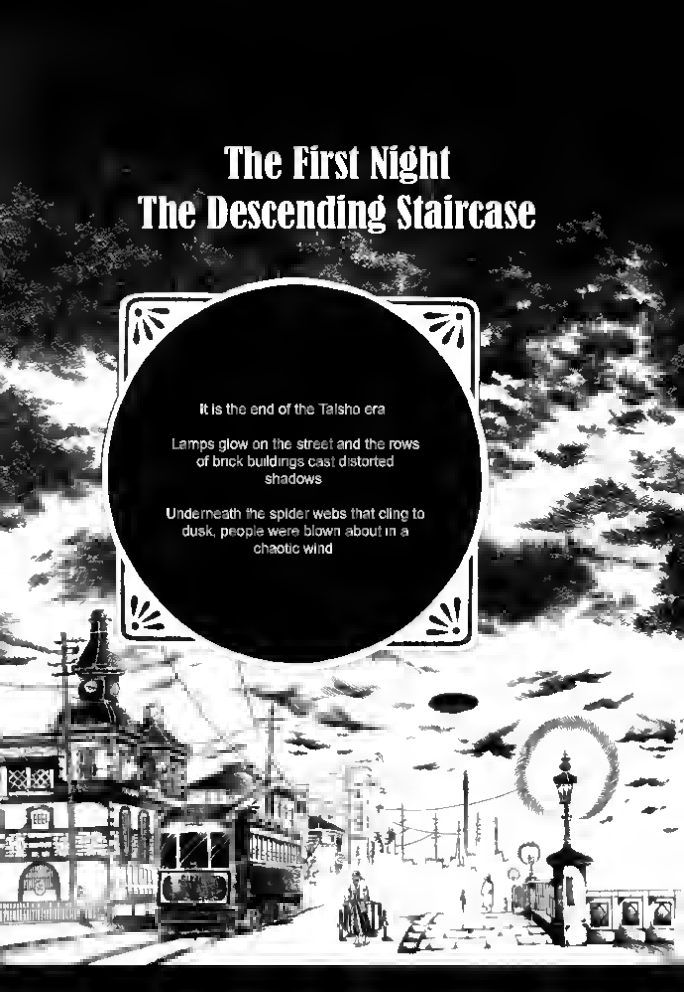
The First Night
The Descending Staircase


It is the end of the Taisho era
Lamps glow on the street and the rows of brick buildings cast distorted shadows
Underneath the spider webs that cling to dusk, people were blown about in a chaotic wind

It is where people eventually go for help with their doubts and fears

The tea house Ginnekan

Tucked away in the capital there's a shop perpetually covered in darkness

These people come to see someone that isn't human

His name is Hiruko
He is a creature that lives by eating nightmares
A "Baku"
The customers allow him into their nightmares and he helps them with their troubles

THIS SHOP IS SO DARK AND DEPRESSING
THAT HONEST PEOPLE WON'T JUST COME IN
OR ARE YOU GOING TO ORDER SOMETHING, HIRUKO?
YOU'RE TRYING OUT THE MENU AGAIN?
AND WHO'S FAULT IS THAT?
I'M NOT INTERESTED IN HUMAN FOOD
HA HA, I WAS KIDDING
YOU CAN'T EVEN DRINK COFFEE
IT MUST BE DULL BEING A BAKU
DULL? THAT
DEPENDS ON THE NIGHTMARE
I WONDER WHAT NIGHTMARE YOU'LL EAT TONIGHT
CLICK

OH, WELCOME
PLEASE!
PLEASE HOLD A FUNERAL FOR MY MISTRESS!
A FUNERAL?
YOU'RE AT THE WRONG PLACE, KID. GO TO A TEMPLE.
HIRUKO!
.....YOU'RE HIRUKO, RIGHT?
I'VE HEARD THE RUMORS
HE ENTERS YOUR NIGHTMARES AND RELEASES YOU FROM ALL YOUR PAIN
SO YOU'VE GOT A REASON FOR COMING HERE

MY NIGHTMARE...
IN EXCHANGE FOR YOUR NIGHTMARE
DON'T WORRY, I'M SURE HIRUKO CAN HELP YOU
MY NIGHTMARE KEEPS ON GOING
WITHOUT EVEN ASKING ME
IS THE MISTRESS IN MY DREAMS
THE ONE I WANT THE FUNERAL FOR
BUT IN MY NIGHTMARE HER REMAINS ARE STILL IN THE MANSION
IN REALITY, MY MISTRESS PASSED AWAY A LONG TIME AGO DUE TO AN ILLNESS

IN MY NIGHT-MARES I'M HER SERVANT
I'M THE ONE WHO WATCHES THE GATE
IT'S ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF TOWN. BOTH OF MY MISTRESS' PARENTS PASSED AWAY BEFORE HER, AND THERE WEREN'T ANY OTHER KIN.
AND WHERE'S THE MANSION?
MY MISTRESS IS SOMEONE COMPLETELY OUT OF MY REACH.
...

I'M HELPLESS IN MY DREAM.. BUT THERE HAS TO BE SOMETHING I CAN DO!
PLEASE! MY MISTRESS CAN'T STAY LIKE THIS!
OH, NO.
IS SOMETHING WRONG?
OUT OF HIS REACH
NOPE, I DON'T DO KIDS SORRY
UNREQUITED LOVE IN A DREAM. WHY DON'T YOU HELP HIM, HIRUKO?
HMPH, YOU'RE REALLY GIVING IT YOUR ALL
sfide
LET'S GO KID!
O-OKAY!
GEEZ, QUIET ALREADY.
IT'S A PAIN
IT'S JUST A FUNERAL!
YOU JUST HAVE TO ENTER HIS DREAM AND PRAY. HOW LAZY ARE YOU?!

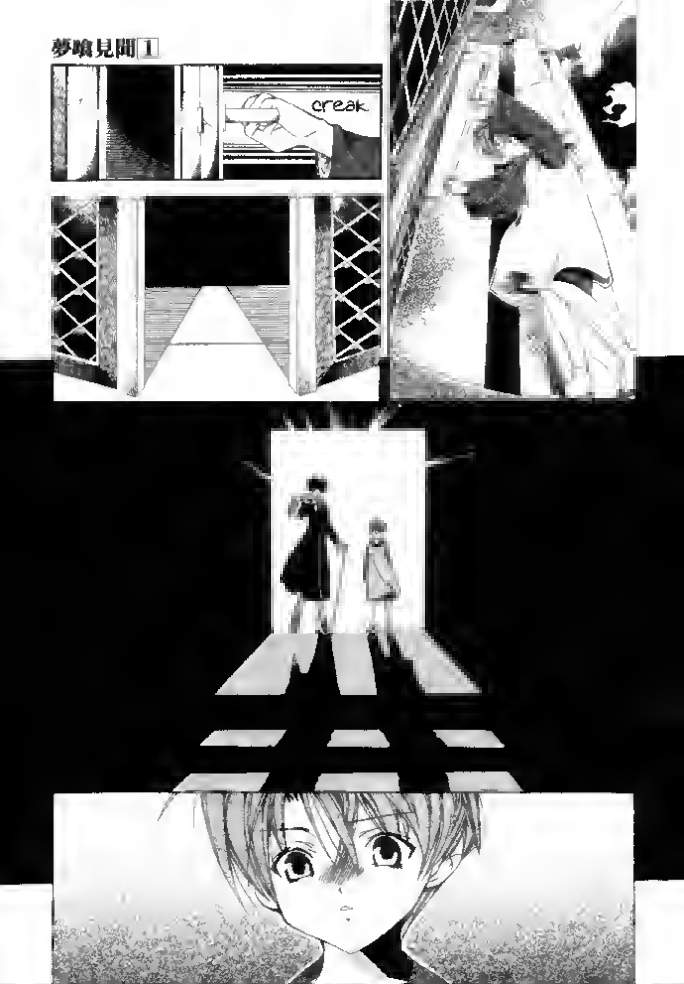
Sleep now
and leave
reality behind
I'M DROWSY ALL OF A SUDDEN.
OH....
TAKE CARE.

YUP, I JUST PUT YOU TO SLEEP.
MY NIGHTMARE!
THIS IS

AS SOON AS THINGS ARE SETTLED HERE IT'LL COLLECT THE NIGHTMARE FOR ME.
THIS CANE IS REALLY HANDY.

UM
I'LL LEAVE IT TO YOU
HER REMAINS ARE AT THE TOP OF THAT TOWER.
I KNEW IT'D BE A PAIN
YOU HAVE TO DO THE FUNERAL, I'M JUST COMING ALONG
I'M THE GATEKEEPER
BUT...
EH!?
YOU'RE AN IDIOT
EVEN IF IT'S A NIGHTMARE, IT'S STILL YOUR DREAM
YOU CAN DO WHAT YOU WANT
YOU'RE FREE HERE
YOU CAN DO WHATEVER

I'M... FREE?
I'VE ...
I'VE ALWAYS WANTED...
TO HOLD HER AT LEAST ONCE.
REAL-LY


creak

SHE'S IN THIS MANSION, AND WHEN WE OPENED THE DOOR, THE STAIRS LED DOWN.
THAT MEANS THEY MUST LEAD TO HER.
DON'T YOU AGREE?
YOU SAID SHE WAS AT THE TOP OF THE TOWER
EH!?
clack
clack
WAIT A SECOND! I KNOW THIS IS MY NIGHTMARE BUT...
clack
I MEAN...
clack
ISN'T MY MISTRESS AT THE TOP OF THE TOWER!? SO WHY'RE THE STAIRS LEADING DOWN...
clack
SHE...

ANYWAY, I'D BETTER GET GOING.
tap
tap
BUT THE STAIRS...
tap
WHY DO I HAVE TO...
tap
...
HIRUKO ...?
BUT HEY!
YOU KNOW, YOU NEVER TOLD ME YOUR NAME
WHAT ARE YOU ANYWAY?
"WHAT" !?
HUH!?
I'M...

GO DOWN?
tap
THE TOP OF THE TOWER!?
THIS IS...
YOU'RE HERE

THERE YOU ARE, GET GOING

PLEASE... BE AT PEACE.
Time to wake up

chirp
WHERE AM I...?
creak
chirp
THAT'S RIGHT...
I'D COMPLETELY FORGOTTEN.
creak
I'M THIS MANSION'S...

YOUR MISTRESS' REMAINS ARE REALLY THERE, NOT JUST IN YOUR DREAM.
YOU RE AWAKE?
SEE?
HA HA, BUT THANKS TO YOU I GET A NIGHTMARE.
TRULY?
slide
IN THE REAL WORLD I'M JUST A WEATHERVANE, NOT A HUMAN AT ALL
MY NIGHTMARE
MY MISTRESS REALLY WAS BEYOND MY REACH.

I WONDER WHEN IT BEGAN
WHEN DID I REALIZE MY FEELINGS FOR HER?
WAS IT THE DAY THAT I COULD NO LONGER SEE HER ?
IT'S A LITTLE HEAVY

IT'S JUST A LITTLE TOO RIPE
YOU WERE IN PAIN FOR SO LONG
I...
GOT TO HOLD HER, DIDN'T I...?

I'M YOUR WITNESS
PLEASE TAKE CARE OF HER...
I'D LIKE
TO DREAM...
OF WHEN SHE WAS WELL
creak
creak
creak
creak
creak

A WEATHERVANE, I SEE...
OH AND YOU HAVE TO TELL SOMEONE ABOUT THE REMAINS THERE
How can I, when I have them here
SO THE MISTRESS WAS BELOW HIM AND THAT'S WHY THE STAIRCASE SPIRALED DOWN
THAT WAS NICE OF YOU.
QUIT IT IT WAS A TOTAL PAIN
SINCE IN REALITY, YOU KNEW THAT HE'D NEVER BE ABLE TO TOUCH HER...
THAT'S WHY YOU AGREED TO THE FUNERAL
BUT, HIRUKO...
YOU KNEW THAT THE KID WAS A WEATHERVANE, DIDN'T YOU?

BETTER THAN MY COFFEE?
SO HOW WAS THE NIGHTMARE?

AND...
YEAH, IT WASN'T BAD.

IT'S NOT OFTEN YOU GET TO EAT A WEATHERVANE'S NIGHTMARE

夢喰見聞

ゆめくいけんぶん

壱

真柴 真

KINOKUNIYA BOOKSTORES 夢喰見聞
(901)-I 07/2003
9 784757 507463
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ISBN4-7575-0746-1
C9979 ¥552E
雑誌50931-32
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京都の一角に住まう、
学業「副業紹介」――
其処には、悪夢を糧にして生きる
「獏」の姿があった。
悪夢を喰らうことで生きる人々は、
迷い悩める人々から、
悪夢のもとにやってくる。

安らぎ、希望、絶望…。
現実に疲れ、人々が追い求めるのは!?
そして今日もまた一人、
「副業紹介」を訪れる――。

エニックス

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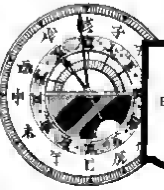
The Second Night

The Writing

It's the end of the Taisho Era

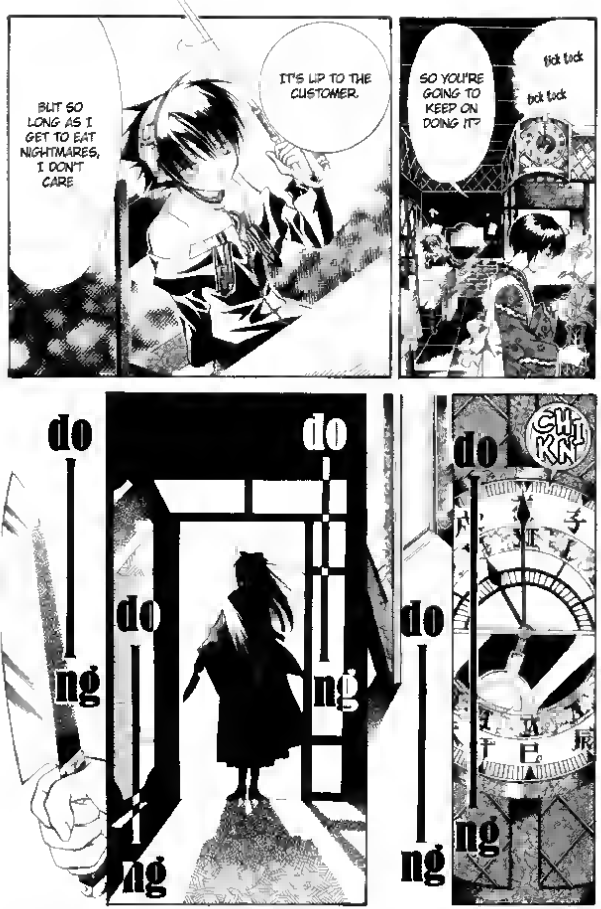
Every night under the gloomy sky customers head to the tea house Ginseiken seeking help

They go to see someone who's settled down there someone who isn't human



He is a being that lives on nightmares

a Baku

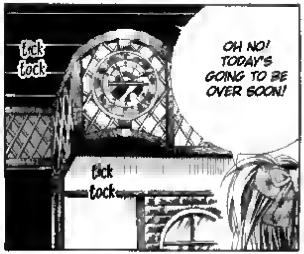

BUT SO LONG AS I GET TO EAT NIGHTMARES, I DON'T CARE
IT'S UP TO THE CUSTOMER.
SO YOU'RE GOING TO KEEP ON DOING IT?
tick tock
tick tock
do
ng
do
ng
do
ng
do
ng
CHI KN

do
ng
do
ng
do
ng
do
ng
CLACK

Guy
WERE YOU TWO HURT!?
wobble
I KNEW IT...
AH!
UGH...
NO, IT HAPPENS ALL THE TIME
ALL THE TIME—?
THIS MUST BE A REALLY DANGEROUS PLACE
YOU WEREN'T YOURSELF, WERE YOU? YOU SAID "I KNEW IT"
IF YOU HAVE A PROBLEM, PLEASE TALK TO HIRUKO

HIRUKO... YOU'RE THAT "BAKU"...
I HEARD YOU FREE PEOPLE FROM THE SUFFERING IN THEIR NIGHTMARES IN EXCHANGE FOR THE DREAM.
YEAH
THAT YOU CAN ENTER ANOTHER PERSON'S NIGHTMARES
THEN...
REWRITE IT?
THEN REWRITE MY NIGHTMARE!
click

GOODBYE

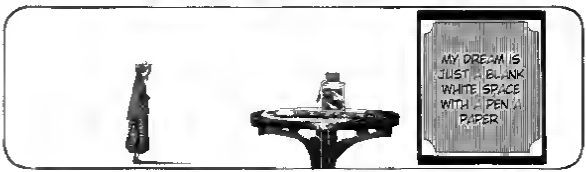

tick
tock
OH NO! TODAY'S GOING TO BE OVER SOON!
tick
tock

I'LL TELL YOU ON THE WAY!
LET ME TAKE YOU TO MY PLACE, THERE'S SOMETHING I WANT TO SHOW YOU THERE

MY NAME IS NIINOME CHIDORI.

CLACK

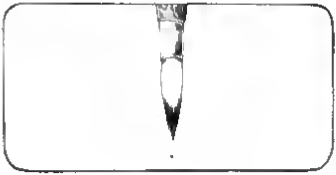
I THINK IT STARTED WHEN I GREW SICK OF THE ENDLESS DAYS OF ATTENDING SCHOOL
THAT'S WHEN I STARTED HAVING THIS DREAM


MY DREAM IS JUST A BLANK WHITE SPACE WITH A PEN & PAPER

Tomorrow will be the same as today.
FEELING DISCOURAGED, I KNEEL AND
WRITE

AND I WRITE THE SAME THING...
AND EVERY NIGHT THE WHITE SPACE IS BACK...
SURE ENOUGH THE NEXT DAY WAS A REPEAT

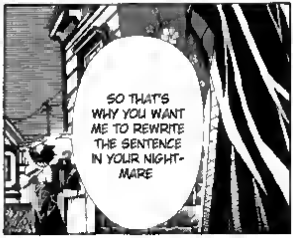
THE SAME DAY, THE SAME DREAM OVER AND OVER
I GOT SICK OF



THAT'S WHY LAST NIGHT I TOOK A CHANCE AND BOLDLY WROTE

Tomorrow I will stab someone to death.

AND IT TURNS OUT IT DID
I THOUGHT SOMETHING MIGHT CHANGE...
IT'S A SICK DREAM THAT'S DRIVING ME MAD...
IT'S JUST A DREAM, BUT...
URGH
SO ABOUT BEFORE
AND IT'S AFFECTING YOUR ACTUAL BEHAVIOR
THE NIGHTMARE IS EATING ITS WAY INTO THE EMPTINESS OF YOUR HEART...


SO THAT'S WHY YOU WANT ME TO REWRITE THE SENTENCE IN YOUR NIGHT-MARE

YES, PLEASE! BEFORE THE DAY'S OVER!
NUNOME

WE'RE HERE

HUH?

NO!
I WON'T BECOME A MURDERER!

HOW DID YOU KNOW WHERE I LIVE!?
OH?
OH, IS THAT IT.
BECAUSE
I'M A "BAKU."
clink
THIS IS WHAT I WANTED YOU TO SEE

BUT IT'S JUST LIKE MY LIFE
THAT'S A REALLY OLD WATCH
YES.
THE SAME THING EVERY DAY...
AND WHEN THE CLOCK POINTED TO THE RIGHT HOUR, I'D RETURN TO THE PRESENT FROM:
EVERY MORNING, I TRUDGED DOWN THE SAME ROAD TO MY SCHOOL.
BEFORE THIS STARTED, THE CLOCK'S HANDS KEPT MOVING, ALWAYS HITTING THE SAME POINTS — JUST LIKE ME.
BUT...

NO MATTER HOW TIRED OF IT I GOT...
I WAS FINE WITH IT!
WHEN MY LIFE KEPT REPEATING ITSELF..
IT WAS FINE, SINCE LIKE THIS WATCH, I KNEW WHERE I WOULD BE TOMORROW!
YOU UNDERSTAND, RIGHT??
SO THIS'S WHAT YOU GET FOR WANTING CHANGE, HUH.
IN OTHER WORDS, A WORLD WHERE THE FAMILIAR DOESN'T CHANGE...
WAS THE PLACE WHERE YOU COULD FEEL SAFE.

OH, THE DAY'S OVER IN 15 MINUTES
PLEASE HURRY
REWRITE THE PHRASE IN MY DREAMS AND SAVE MY TRUE SELF
CAN'T YOU DO IT YOURSELF?
I DON'T WANT TO TRUST MYSELF TO MAKE ANY MORE CHANGES

Then sleep
Say goodbye to reality for a while

Tomorrow I will stab someone to death.

scrape
scrape
JUST WRITE ANYTHING
PLEASE REWRITE IT!
WHAT SHOULD I WRITE?
I'LL ASK ONCE MORE, ARE YOU SURE THIS IS WHAT YOU WANT?
EH?
HALT
DO YOU WANT ME TO WRITE THE SAME THING AGAIN?
IT'S UP TO YOU!
AGAIN ?
?

I REPLY WITH THIS.
AND NEXT...
SINCE A WHILE AGO...
WHY DO I GET THE FEELING I'VE SEEN IT BEFORE...?
WHAT'S GOING ON? THIS SCENE...
SHOCK

WRITE WHAT YOU'D LIKE

I'M DONE.
click
tick
tick
SO THIS IS FINE.
tick
click
I DON'T WANT ANY CHANGES.
Brush
Brush
YES. THIS IS FINE.

I'VE REWRITTEN THE SENTENCE.
TIME FOR ME TO COLLECT THIS NIGHTMARE
Time to wake up
HE HEHE...
JUST WHAT DID HE.
THIS IS FINE...
THIS IS FINE
OH!
WHAT'S THIS...!?
flare

AN EMPTY WHITE SPACE...?
THAT MUST HAVE REPRESENTED THE BLANK WHITE SLATE OF HER TOMORROW
WHAT SHE WROTE ON IT MUST HAVE BEEN A STRONG SUBLIMINAL MESSAGE TO HERSELF,
AND CARVED ITSELF INTO THE EMPTINESS OF HER REAL HEART...
shance
tick tock
tick tock

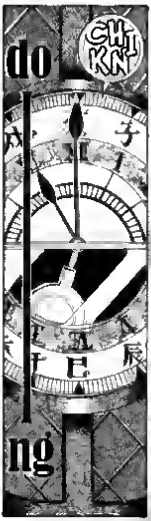
WELL, NOT JUST LAST NIGHT
WILL YOU TELL ME THE SENTENCE YOU WROTE FOR HER LAST NIGHT?
HEY, HIRUKO
THE SENTENCE YOU WRITE EVERY TIME SHE COMES BY—
I JUST WROTE WHAT SHE WANTED ME TO

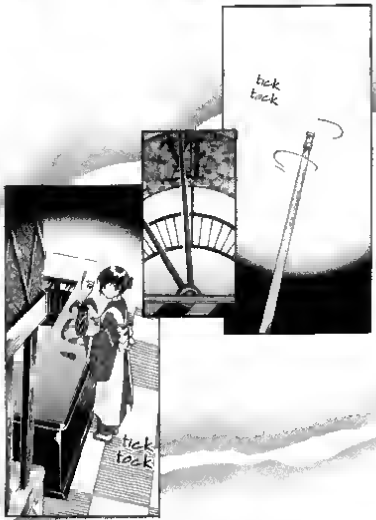
Tomorrow
will be the
same as
today.

BUT SO LONG AS I GET TO EAT NIGHTMARES, I DON'T CARE.

IT'S UP TO THE CUSTOMER.

SO YOU'RE GOING TO KEEP ON DOING IT?
tick tack
tick tack


do
CHI KN
ng


tick tack
tick tack

do
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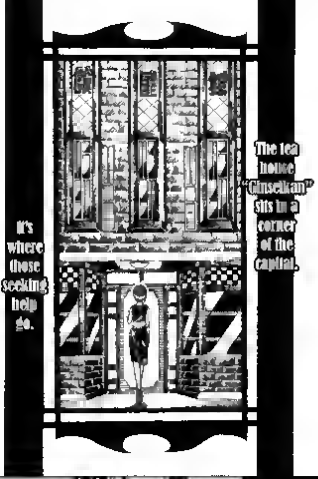
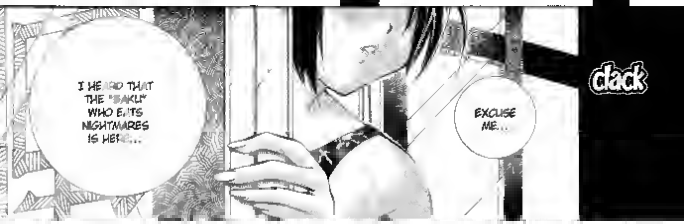
The Third Night

Forgotten

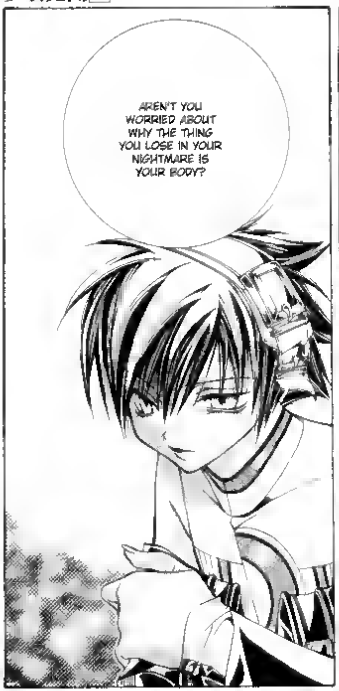




IT'S NICE TO MEET YOU HIRUKO
She told me your name.
HI.
I'M SUZUKAKE AYANO
AH!
SWAP
OH NO!
DON'T WORRY
WHAT SHOULD I DO?
HE DOESN'T CARE ABOUT ANYTHING BUT THE NIGHTMARE
I FORGOT THE GIFT I'D GOTTEN FOR YOU...

OH, THAT'S RIGHT.
UM, WHAT WAS IT AGAIN...?
UM...
BUT WHAT KIND OF A NIGHTMARE ARE YOU HERE ABOUT?
CLACK
WHAT DO YOU LOSE IN YOUR DREAM?
LOSE THINGS?
I HAVE THIS NIGHTMARE WHERE I LOSE THINGS
PARTS OF MY BODY...
I LOSE

THE FIRST NIGHT WERE MY EYES...
THE NEXT MY EAR...
AND THEN MY RIGHT HAND...
EVERY NIGHT I GO TO A HORRIBLE PLACE THAT SMELLS LIKE BLOOD
EACH NIGHT I LOSE A BODY PART...
IT MUST BE HARD IN YOUR DREAM, HAVING YOUR BODY IN THAT CONDITION
SO YOU WANT ME TO GO AND FIND THE BODY PARTS YOU LOST IN YOUR NIGHTMARE?
AND I'M AFRAID TO GO TO SLEEP ANYMORE
IT MAKES ME FEEL SICK
SHE'S REALLY INCREDIBLY FORGETFUL
Sorry
That's the last one, ma'am
PLEASE, HIRUKO!
IT'S HIRUKO
Click
YES, IT IS! PLEASE ENTER MY DREAM AND HELP ME FIND MY MISSING PARTS! I WANT TO BE FREE FROM THIS DREAM SO I CAN SLEEP PEACE-FULLY!


AREN'T YOU WORRIED ABOUT WHY THE THING YOU LOSE IN YOUR NIGHTMARE IS YOUR BODY?

IT'S JUST LIKE NOW
I EVEN FORGET THINGS IN MY DREAMS.

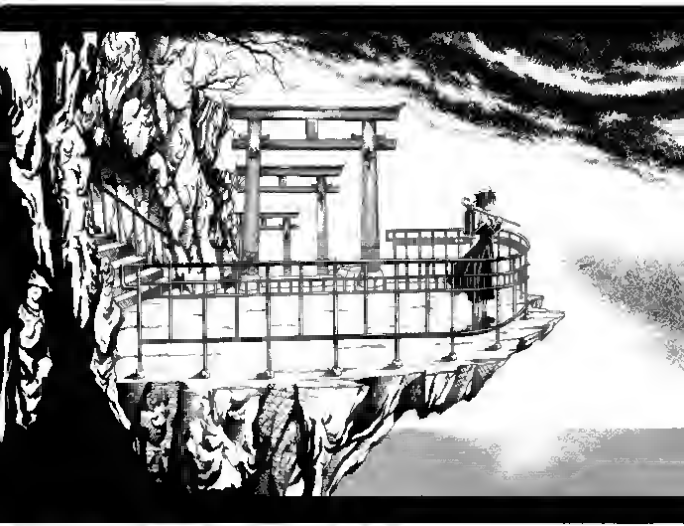
B-BUT!
SORRY BUT I DON'T CARE WHAT HAPPENS TO YOUR BODY

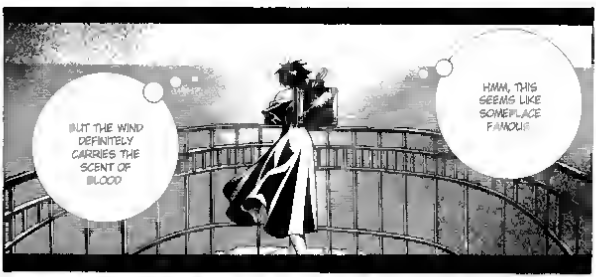
BUT AYANO

DO YOU RECOGNIZE THE PLACE YOU GO TO IN YOUR NIGHT-MARE?
YEAH VAGUELY
UM?
I?

FOR SOME REASON, EACH TIME I LOSE A PART OF MY BODY, MY REAL MEMORIES FADE
BUT I DON'T REMEMBER IT CLEARLY.
HM, HER MEMORIES
IF I CAN GET MY BODY WHOLE IN MY DREAM, I'LL BE ABLE TO SLEEP PEACEFULLY AGAIN
AND I'M SURE MY FADED MEMORIES WILL COME BACK AS WELL.
CLACK
I'LL BE RIGHT THERE WITH YOU IN YOUR DREAM.
R-REALLY!?
I'M SO GLAD
SO, SHALL WE GO?
click
EH?

Sleep now
Say farewell to reality for a time
Hehe
I'M INTERESTED IN WHAT WILL BECOME OF YOU AFTERWARDS.
Flare
?




HMM, THIS SEEMS LIKE SOMEPLACE FAMOUS
BUT THE WIND DEFINITELY CARRIES THE SCENT OF BLOOD

HIRUKOOO!
IT HANGS HEAVILY IN THE AIR... WHAT A NICE FEELING
LIFT
HUP
WHERE ARE YOU!? I CAN'T SEE.
THANKS FOR THIS
LET'S TRY THIS PATH

AYANO,
I'VE FOUND YOUR LOST EAR.
OH WAIT. I CAN HEAR SOMETHING...
OH ALREADY?
GOODBYE...
EH?

BUT THE VOICE SOUNDED FAMILIAR
OH, I FOUND YOUR EYES

HIRUKO DID YOU JUST SAY SOMETHING?
NOPE DID YOU HEAR SOMETHING?

I MUST HAVE IMAGINED IT

OH!

DO YOU SEE SOMETHING THIS TIME?

HIM? WHO?
I... I DON'T KNOW...
BUT...
OVER THERE!
WHAT IS IT?
I DON'T SEE ANY-THING...
I CAN SEE HIM!

I WONDER WHY. I'VE GOT THIS HORRIBLE FEELING!
MY MEMORIES ARE COMING BACK.

MY RIGHT HAND
BUT THE LAST PART IS RIGHT THERE
HIRUKO, MY BODY'S FINE LIKE THIS.
LET'S GO BACK!
YOU CAN GET THAT ONE YOURSELF AYANO
SO, PLEASE
RECLAIM YOUR HAND AND THE MEMORIES YOU'VE FORGOTTEN
HMM, SO THERE'S SOME HORRIBLE MEMORY INGRAINED IN YOUR BODY?
MY MEMORIES
N-NO!

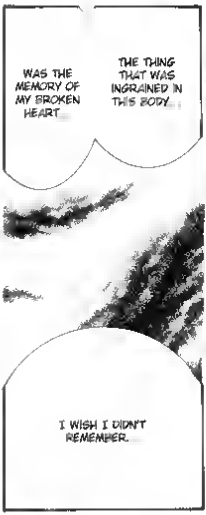
HEY I DID TELL YOU, DIDN'T I?
I'M INTERESTED IN WHAT BECOMES OF YOU
I WANT YOU TO CRY MORE.
THAT HEART-RENDING EXPRESSION OF YOURS IS MORE DELICIOUS THAN A NIGHTMARE
TO SUFFER SO MUCH YOU WANT TO DIE.
SWAP

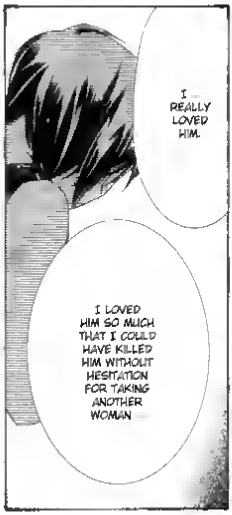
NO MATTER WHAT I REMEMBER!
FINE, I'LL GO GET MY HAND!
DEMON!
BUT THERE'S NO WAY I'M GOING TO CRY!
YES MY MEMORY'S RETURNING
THERE'S THE SENSE OF A WARM TOUCH ON MY HAND
THIS PLACE ...

THAT'S RIGHT
HE'S THE ONE I LOVE
IT WAS OUR FAVORITE SPOT WHICH WE'D COME TO ALL THE TIME
BUT
HE LET GO OF MY HAND
GOODBYE.

THE WORDS OF PARTING THAT THESE EARS HEARD
SO THERE'S ANOTHER WOMAN?
THE STRAINED SMILE THESE EYES SAW
THE LAST EXPRESSION ON HIS FACE

YOU'RE CRYING.


WAS THE MEMORY OF MY BROKEN HEART...
THE THING THAT WAS INGRAINED IN THIS BODY...
I WISH I DIDN'T REMEMBER...


I... REALLY LOVED HIM.
I LOVED HIM SO MUCH THAT I COULD HAVE KILLED HIM WITHOUT HESITATION FOR TAKING ANOTHER WOMAN...

WHIP

YOU DELIBERATELY PROVOKED ME SO I WOULD FINISH IT, DIDN'T YOU?
HIRUKO,

THANKS TO YOU, I CAN SAY GOODBYE TO THIS DREAM.
SINCE I REMEMBER EVERYTHING I'D FORGOTTEN.
HOW DID THAT HAPPEN!?
BUT, LOOK.
YOUR LEFT HAND.
It's the cursed dagger.
Sorry for stabbing you.
DO YOU REALLY REMEMBER EVERYTHING?
HM? YES

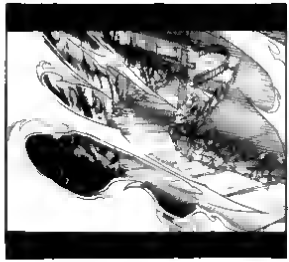
MAYBE IT'S SOMETHING YOU WOULDN'T WANT TO FORGET
IT'S OVER THERE.
WANT TO GO AND GET IT?
SO IT'S A GOOD MEMORY?
WOULDN'T WANT TO FORGET
IT'LL MAKE STARTING A NEW RELATIONSHIP EASIER
IF THAT'S THE CASE I MIGHT AS WELL FORGET IT

YES?
ALTHOUGH, AYANO

IF YOU SAY SO

Time to wake up

I WONDER WHY THIS NIGHTMARE CARRIES THE SCENT OF BLOOD
?



IT WAS SO PAINFUL THAT YOU LEFT IT BEHIND IN YOUR DREAMS
yeah
I CAN SYMPATHIZE THAT KIND OF HEART-BREAK...
I THINK IT MUST HAVE BEEN JUST AS PAINFUL FOR HIM TO TALK ABOUT BREAKING UP...
SINCE HIS FACE WHEN WE PARTED
WAS SO STRAINED
sink
HMM
SO WHAT YOU'D REALLY LOST WASN'T YOUR BODY...
BUT THE MEMORY OF YOUR BROKEN HEART
I WONDER IF IT'S TASTY AT ALL

GOOD LUCK WITH THAT, AYANO
FOR HIS SAKE AS WELL AS MINE, I WANT TO FIND SOMEONE ELSE SOON
THAT'S WHY...
OFFICER, THAT'S HER!
AYANO!
I'VE FINALLY FOUND YOU!
SHE'S THE ONE WHO STABBED ME!
!?

SHE WOULDN'T HEAR OF IT, AND JUST ATTACKED ME!
WHEN I BROUGHT UP DIVORCE, SHE TOOK A KNIFE IN HER LEFT HAND AND STABBED ME!
ALL I COULD DO WAS RUN FOR MY LIFE!
THANKS TO HER I WAS STUCK IN THE HOSPITAL FOR THREE MONTHS!

?
NOW I SEE. I THOUGHT IT WAS STRANGE THAT YOU COULD SMELL BLOOD IN HER NIGHTMARE
THIS MUST HAVE BEEN THE REASON
OFFICER, SHE'S ALL YOURS NOW
SHE'S BEEN ON THE MOVE THIS ENTIRE TIME
YOU HAVE NO IDEA WHAT I WENT THROUGH TO FIND YOU!
BUT... BUT WE DON'T HAVE ANY WITNESSES
TELL HIM, AYANO!
YOU STABBED ME WITH YOUR LEFT HAND!

I'VE FORGOTTEN IT...
...MY LEFT HAND?
!?
I REALLY DON'T REMEMBER AT ALL

Yumekui Kenbun
volume 1 chapter 4
scanned by
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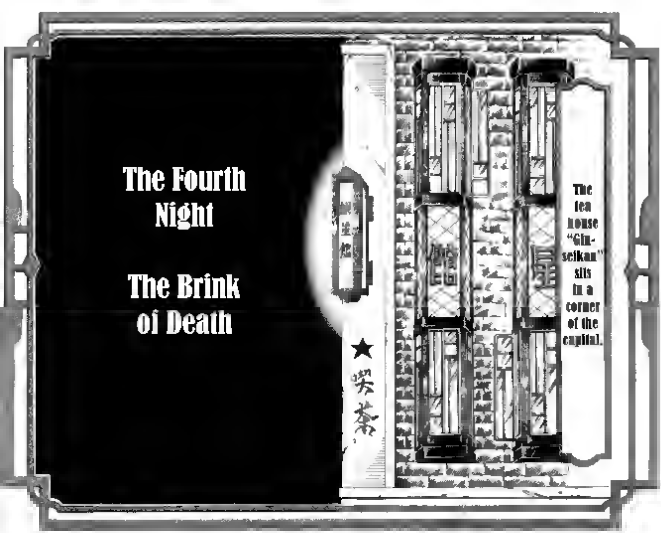
The Fourth Night

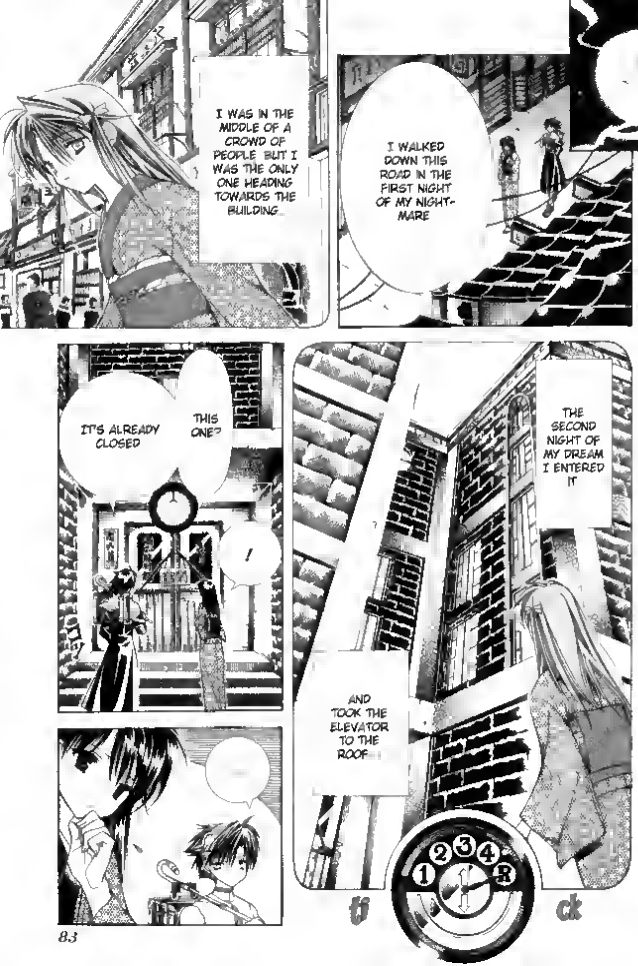
The Brink of Death



HIRUKO'S OVER THERE
YOU'VE COME TO TALK ABOUT A NIGHT-MARE, HM?
IS HIRUKO HERE?
BUT...
OH, NO. I JUST THOUGHT A "BAKU" WOULD LOOK STRANGER.
HEHE COME IN.
IS SOME-THING WRONG?
IF IT'S HIM...

I'M HUKAGAWA CHIKAGE.
PLEASE HELP ME!
click
SLUCCSS
I'VE BEEN HAVING THIS DREAM FOR FOUR NIGHTS IN A ROW NOW...
IN IT I'M COMPELLED TO WALK CLOSER AND CLOSER TO WHERE I'LL DIE.
AND TONIGHT WILL BE THE NIGHT I REACH IT AND JUMP OFF, FALLING TO MY DEATH
WHAT'S THIS ABOUT?
DID SOMETHING HAPPEN FOUR DAYS AGO?

?
UM... WOULD YOU MIND COMING WITH ME?
FOUR DAYS AGO...
MY BELOVED TOOK HIS OWN LIFE TO ESCAPE A PAINFUL DEATH FROM HIS ILLNESS...
FINE I'LL LISTEN TO YOUR STORY AS WE WALK
clack
IF SHE JUST WANTS TO TALK SHE COULD DO IT HERE
WHERE IS SHE GOING?
clack


I WAS IN THE MIDDLE OF A CROWD OF PEOPLE BUT I WAS THE ONLY ONE HEADING TOWARDS THE BUILDING...
I WALKED DOWN THIS ROAD IN THE FIRST NIGHT OF MY NIGHTMARE
THE SECOND NIGHT OF MY DREAM I ENTERED IT
AND TOOK THE ELEVATOR TO THE ROOF...
THIS ONE?
IT'S ALREADY CLOSED
I
...

THE THIRD NIGHT I WAS UP ON THE ROOF, LOOKING DOWN AT THIS SPOT.
DOES THAT ROOF HAPPEN TO BE WHERE YOUR MAN JUMPED FROM FOUR NIGHTS AGO?
AND YOU THINK THAT TONIGHT ON THE FOURTH NIGHT OF YOUR NIGHTMARE, YOU'RE GOING TO JUMP OFF AFTER HIM?
YES, EXACTLY!
THAT'S WHY I WANT YOU TO STOP IT...!
IS THAT WHAT YOU REALLY WANT?

I THINK THAT WHAT YOU REALLY WANT IS TO FOLLOW AFTER HIM.
SO IN TRUTH,
AND ARE PROBABLY FOLLOWING THE ROUTE HE TOOK THAT DAY.
YOU'RE GOING STRAIGHT TO WHERE HE KILLED HIMSELF.
BUT RATHER SO I COULD MAKE SURE IT HAPPENED IN THE REAL WORLD RIGHT?
YOU DIDN'T COME TO ME WANTING ME TO STOP YOU FROM JUMPING IN YOUR DREAM...
I CAN'T HELP BUT THINK HE'S GUIDING ME TO HIM IN THAT NIGHTMARE SO...
NO MATTER WHAT I DO I CAN'T FORGET ABOUT HIM.
YES...

IF YOU WANT TO DIE, GO AHEAD
ON YOUR OWN
SORRY, BUT IF I DON'T GET A NIGHTMARE TO EAT, THEN YOU'RE USELESS TO ME
I NEED YOUR HELP
HIRUKO, WAIT!
HARUO...!?
CHIKAGE!
WHO ARE YOU?
YOU FOLLOWED ME FROM THE SHOP
SO YOU'VE FINALLY COME OUT OF HIDING

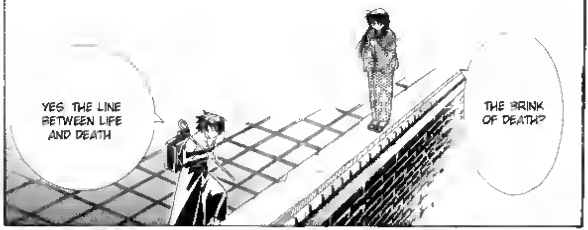
I'LL ALWAYS BE WITH YOU!!
PLEASE DON'T DO ANYTHING RASH!
PLEASE START YOUR LIFE OVER
I'M SORRY, BUT I ONLY THINK OF YOU AS A FRIEND
HE'S THE ONLY ONE I LOVE...
HE'S GONE!
HE DIED!
clench
YOU KNOW
THUNK
YOU BASTARD!
IF THAT'S THE CASE YOU MIGHT AS WELL JUST GO FOR A DOUBLE SUICIDE
HM, SO YOU LOVE HER?

IF YOU'RE GOING TO ASK ME FOR HELP YOU SHOULD TREAT ME BETTER
!
I'M SORRY
I HEARD YOU TALKING
PLEASE
I WANT YOU TO MAKE SURE SHE HAS THAT DREAM TONIGHT
HARUO ?
IF SHE DIES IN HER DREAM FIRST SHE MIGHT CHANGE HER MIND ABOUT KILLING HERSELF
EVEN IF SHE CAN'T FORGET ABOUT HIM, SO LONG AS SHE'S ALIVE, I'LL —
HA-RUO

Then sleep...
Leave reality behind
THAT MIGHT BE A TASTY NIGHTMARE
A DEATH, HUH?
WILL YOU SHOW ME...
THE FOURTH NIGHT OF YOUR NIGHTMARE?
I WONDER HOW IT WILL END
YES

THIS IS IT.

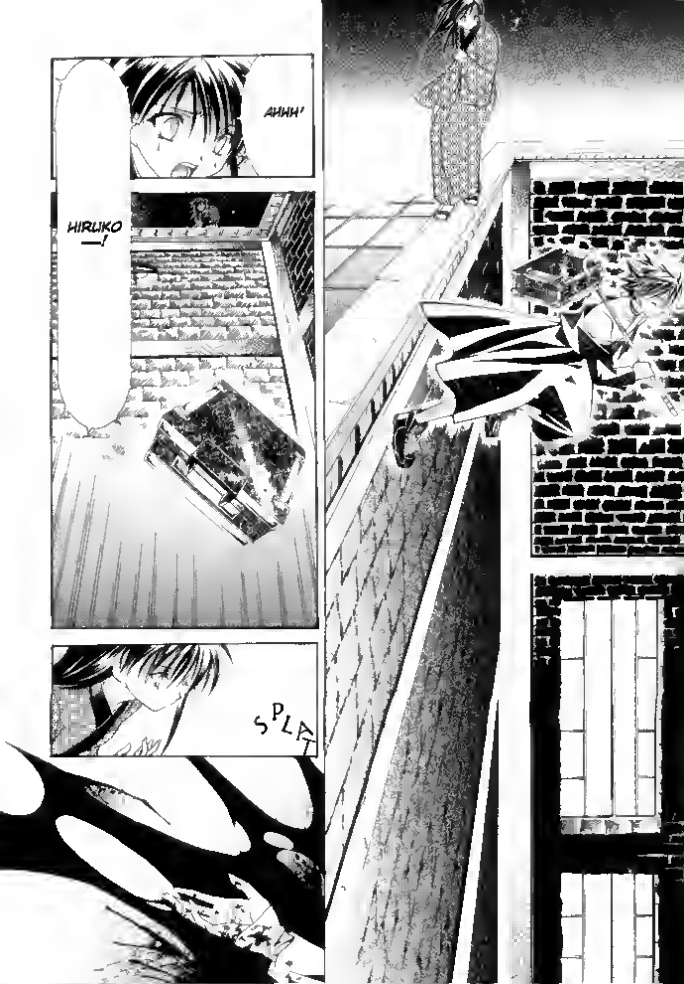
YOU'RE STANDING ON THE BRINK OF DEATH.
SO WHAT WILL YOU DO?


YES. THE LINE BETWEEN LIFE AND DEATH
THE BRINK OF DEATH?

AS HARUO SAID, HE DOESN'T EXIST ANYWHERE ANYMORE
DO YOU THINK SO?

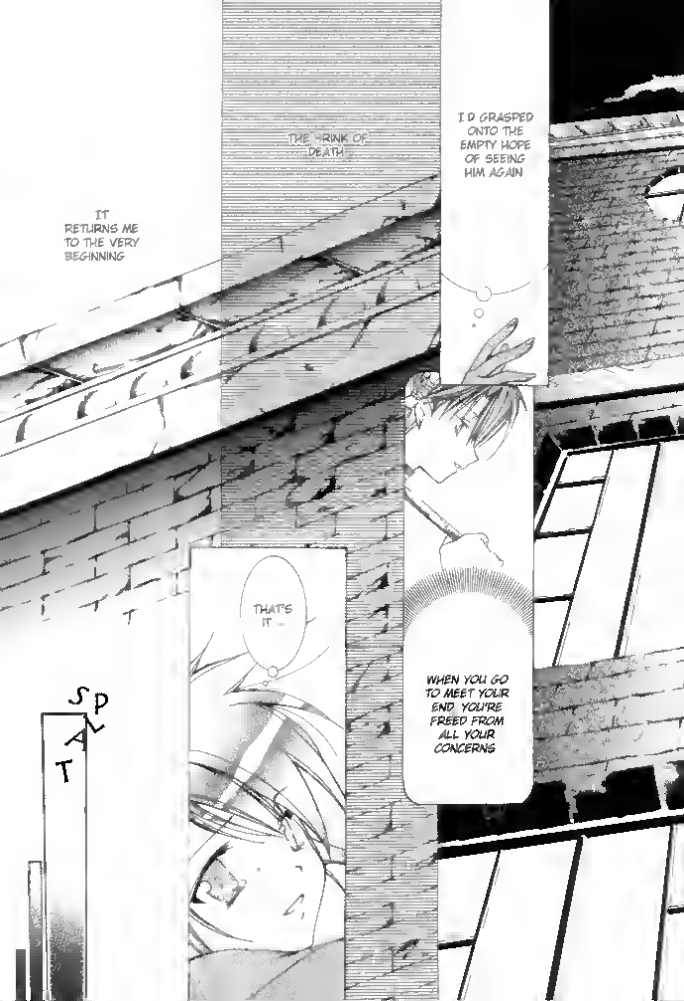
IF I GO PAST HERE I WONDER IF I'LL SEE HIM.

SHALL I CROSS THE LINE AS WELL?
HEHE
YOU GO TO MEET YOUR END. YOU'RE FREED FROM ALL YOUR CONCERNS
WHEN


AHHH!
HIRUKO —!
SPLAT

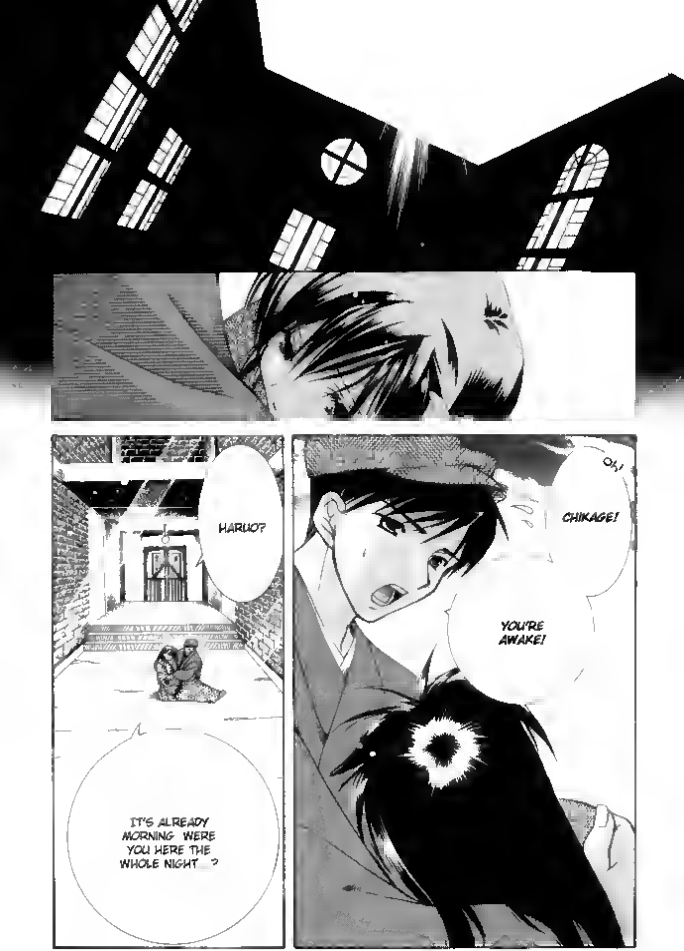
HE DOESN'T EXIST ANYWHERE ANYMORE
I'M AFRAID...
rustle
BUT I WANT TO GO TO HIM!
N-
NO!
WHAT SHOULD I DO?
!
WOOSH
I'LL DIE!
WAKE UP?! AT THIS RATE...
AH SHOOT SHOULD I DO?
I'LL FALL!
AHH!
SWISH

THE MEMORIES OF HIM
THAT ARE IN THIS BODY WILL DIE
LIKE HE DIED AND DOESN'T EXIST ANYWHERE ANYMORE
THEY WILL DISAP-PEAR!


I'D GRASPED ONTO THE EMPTY HOPE OF SEEING HIM AGAIN
THE BRINK OF DEATH
IT RETURNS ME TO THE VERY BEGINNING
WHEN YOU GO TO MEET YOUR END YOU'RE FREED FROM ALL YOUR CONCERNS
THAT'S IT...
SPLAT

I'M STILL ALIVE
TAP
THAT'S BECAUSE IT'S A DREAM?
NO I'M NOT...
CRUSH
CRUSH
I ACTUALLY FEEL REFRESHED
IT'S AS IF...
YOU AREN'T IN PAIN, ARE YOU?
HIRUKO.
CRUSH

I'VE BEEN REBORN
EVEN WITH ALL THAT BLOOD?
YES IT'S STRANGE
I'LL RELISH IT LATER
THE BLOOD-STAINED NIGHTMARES ARE ESPECIALLY TASTY
WELL I'M HAPPY
Haire
Time to wake up

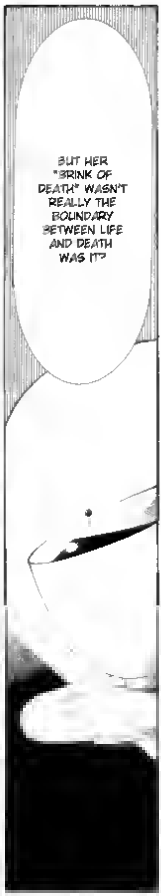

HARUO?
IT'S ALREADY MORNING. WERE YOU HERE THE WHOLE NIGHT...?
OH,!
CHIKAGE!
YOU'RE AWAKE!

WELL, YEAH.
WOULD YOU LIKE TO GO HOME NOW?
YES!

Several Days Later
YOU STILL HAVEN'T HEALED UP YET.
OF COURSE UNLIKE THE PERSON CONTROLLING THE DREAM, MY REAL BODY ENTERS IT
HEHE
SO THE FACT THAT YOU SURVIVED IS PROOF YOU AREN'T HUMAN
YOU RISKED YOURSELF TO SHOW HER THE WAY
BUT THAT WAS REALLY SOMETHING
I DON'T MIND IT WAS ALL SO I COULD GET A DELICIOUS NIGHTMARE
WHEN SOMEONE DIES THE DREAM IS DYED BLOOD RED
OH...
Enough for two mugs?

HEHE, I WONDER IF SHE'S GETTING CLOSE TO THAT HARUO RIGHT NOW?

WAS SHE GOING TO KEEP ON LIVING WITH THE MEMORIES OF THE MAN WHO'D PASSED AWAY—


BUT HER "BRINK OF DEATH" WASN'T REALLY THE BOUNDARY BETWEEN LIFE AND DEATH WAS IT?

I DON'T CARE I JUST WONDER WHEN I'LL GET TO SEE ANOTHER NIGHTMARE LIKE THAT AGAIN—
CLACK

OR WOULD SHE LET GO OF THEM AND START DOWN A NEW ROAD—
THAT WAS THE BOUNDARY IN HER HEART

ARE THINGS WORKING OUT BETWEEN CHIKAGE AND YOU?
SO THAT'S HIM?
HIRUO.
THIS WAY
SHE...
DIED IN AN ACCIDENT FOUR DAYS AGO.
PLEASE HELP ME
I'VE BEEN HAVING THIS DREAM FOR FOUR NIGHTS IN A ROW NOW
IN IT I'M COMPELLED TO WALK CLOSER AND CLOSER TO WHERE I'LL DIE
HIRUKO LOOKS LIKE YOU GET TO EAT ANOTHER DELICIOUS NIGHTMARE
...

Yumekui Kenbun

volume 1 chapter 5

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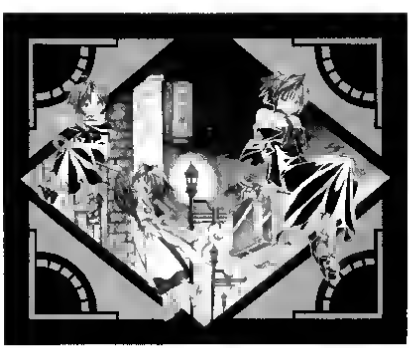
THE
FIFTH
NIGHT
THE KANJI



銀星館
The tea house "Ginseikan" sits in a corner of the capital. It's where those seeking help go to.
TEA
clack

I WONDER WHAT KIND OF NIGHTMARE I'LL GET TONIGHT
YOU'RE THAT "BAKU" HIRUKO?
NICE TO MEET YOU...?
I'M ANAN KANAU
I CAME TO ASK YOU FOR HELP WITH MY NIGHTMARE
SO?
GOOD EVENING KANAU PLEASE TAKE A SEAT I'LL MAKE SOME COFFEE

IT'S JUST ONE NIGHT, BUT...
EVERY YEAR ON THE ANNIVERSARY OF MY FATHER'S DEATH I HAVE THE SAME NIGHTMARE
OH?
THEN BEFORE WE TALK ABOUT THE DREAM, YOU SHOULD TELL ME THE DETAILS OF YOUR FATHER'S DEATH
MY FATHER'S ?
WELL
I GUESS

WE LIVED IN OUR ANCESTRAL HOME, AND MY FATHER WAS A VERY STRICT MAN.
HE WAS ALWAYS DISAPPROVING, AND COLD, AND IT WAS DIFFICULT TO EARN EVEN A SHRED OF LOVE FROM HIM.
BACK WHEN I WAS SIX,
I WOULD PULL PRANKS TO TRY TO GET MY FATHER'S ATTENTION.
I DON'T CARE HOW MUCH HE LECTURES ME SO LONG AS HE FINALLY REALIZES HOW LONELY I AM...
BUT EVERY TIME I MISBEHAVED, ALL HE DID WAS LOCK ME IN THE SHED IN THE GARDEN SO I WOULD HAVE TO THINK ABOUT WHAT I HAD DONE.
NONE OF MY FEELINGS EVER GOT THROUGH TO HIM.

THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT
WHICE
MAYBE FATHER WILL BE WORRIED ABOUT THE CUT...
TREMBLE
IT WAS THE SAME WHEN I BROKE THE VASE MY LEG HAD BEEN CUT BY THE SHARDS
THE VASE CAN BE REPLACED,
BUT YOU CAN NEVER BRING THOSE BROKEN FLOWERS BACK!
BUT HE GOT MADDER THAN HE'D EVER BEEN, AND SAID...
YOU FOOL!
AFTER THAT, THERE WERE NEVER ANY MORE FLOWERS OR VASES DECORATING THE ROOM...
DID HE THINK IT WAS ANOTHER PRANK...?
KANAU, WHEN YOU'RE DONE TENDING TO THAT CUT, GO TO THE SHED AND THINK ABOUT WHAT YOU'VE DONE!!

WITHOUT ME EVEN NOTICING IT, THE FAILED PRANKS I PULLED TO GET HIS ATTENTION SOON FILLED ME WITH HATRED
FATHER CARES MORE ABOUT HIS FLOWERS THAN ME
-And then, the image of what happened ten years ago
AND MY FATHER'S DEAD BODY RESTING AT MY FEET.
I WAS STANDING IN THE SHED WITH MY FEELINGS FINALLY AT PEACE

AND I DON'T REMEMBER ANYTHING ABOUT IT
I DON'T KNOW! I WAS IN SHOCK

MUST HAVE?

THEY CALLED IT AN ACCIDENT. .
BUT I MUST HAVE KILLED HIM!

THERE'S ONLY ONE THING I CAN SAY.
REALLY— THEN WHY—?

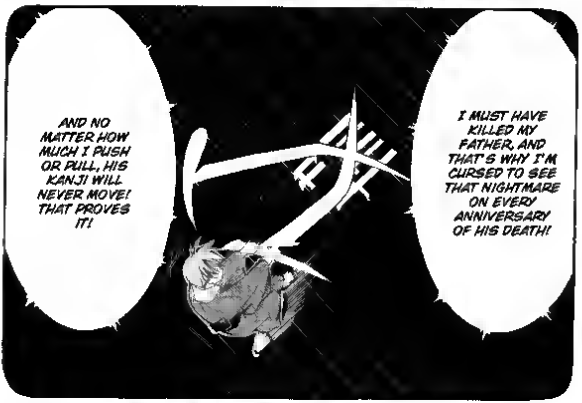
IF HE LOVED ME.
ALL I KNOW IS THAT FOR AS LONG AS I LIVE, NOW I'LL NEVER KNOW....

YES.
CAN YOU TELL ME ABOUT THE DREAM?

...

BUT MY MEMORY OF MY CHILDHOOD IS SO VAGUE, THAT THE THINGS THAT I SHOULD HAVE IMAGINED
TO KEEP MY FEAR IN CHECK, I DREW A PICTURE OF ALL THE THINGS IN THE ROOM IN MY HEAD.
IT'S THE SAME SHED AS IT WAS BACK THEN, BUT IT'S PITCH-BLACK, AND I CAN'T SEE A THING
ALSO, THE BASEMENT WAS SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT FROM HOW IT HAD BEEN IN REAL LIFE.
WERE REDUCED TO SIMPLE KANJI.
AND IT'S STUCK TO THE SMALL KANJI UNDERNEATH IT, THE KANJI FOR MY NAME.
IN MY NIGHTMARE THERE'S A HUGE KANJI FOR "FATHER"

I CAN'T HELP BUT THINK THAT THE KANJI FOR "FATHER" IS HIS HATRED FOR ME!
AND I CAN'T STOP THINKING ABOUT IT! I FEEL HORRIBLE.
SO THE SMALL "KANAU" KANJI REPRESENTS YOU AS A CHILD


AND NO MATTER HOW MUCH I PUSH OR PULL, HIS KANJI WILL NEVER MOVE! THAT PROVES IT!
I MUST HAVE KILLED MY FATHER, AND THAT'S WHY I'M CURSED TO SEE THAT NIGHTMARE ON EVERY ANNIVERSARY OF HIS DEATH!

HEY
FREE ME FROM HIM...
PLEASE, HIPUKO, FIGURE OUT HOW TO MOVE THAT KANJI ..

WHAT WILL YOU DO IF YOU PROVE TO YOURSELF THAT THAT IS THE REASON YOU CAN'T MOVE IT?
THAT KANJI IS FATHER'S RESENTMENT TOWARDS ME...
IF I CAN'T MOVE IT TONIGHT, I'LL ACCEPT MY CRIME AND TURN MYSELF IN.
HIRUKO LOOKS A LITTLE OFF...
OKAY
Swish

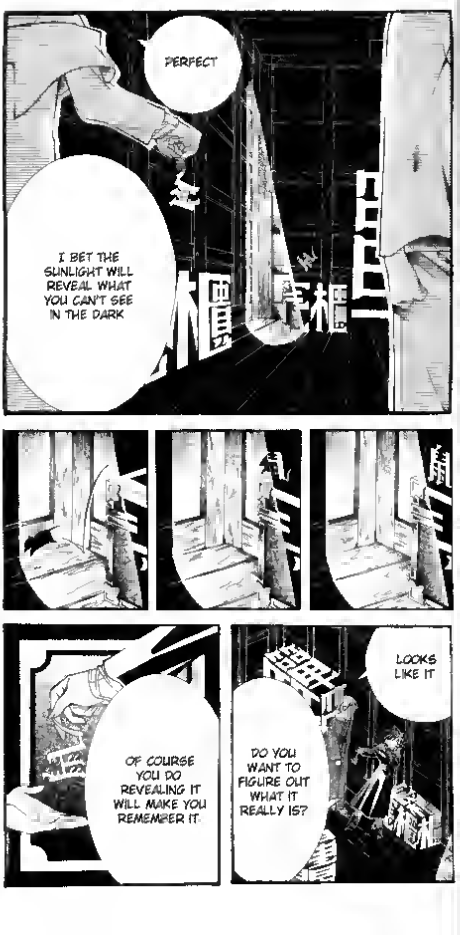
Then sleep, and leave reality behind.

TH-THIS IS IT!
NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES I SEE IT, IT STILL MAKES ME SICK!

SO IT WON'T MOVE HMM?
PULL
PULL
PULL
DAMMIT, IT WON'T MOVE!
WE'VE GOT TO GET HIM OFF OF ME!
LET'S PULL TOGETHER!
IT WON'T MOVE!!
IT WON'T BUDGE!!
I WONDER WHAT THE NEXT FLOOR IS LIKE
THAT'S ENOUGH OF THAT
DAD!
DAMN!
release

WHAT'S THAT?
JUST WHEN DID HE
WHAT?
OH!
HEY, KANAU THERE'S SOMETHING UP HERE THAT YOU SHOULD SEE
LOOK AT THIS...
WHAT... OH, THE KANJI FOR "RAT", RIGHT?

SO IT'S PROBABLY DEAD
THERE ARE OTHER ONES MOVING AROUND
HMM, IT'S NOT LIKE THE OTHER ONES
THIS IS THE ONLY ONE THAT ISN'T MOVING...
IT'S TOO LIGHT FOR A CORPSE
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
I MEAN
THAT THIS THING ISN'T JUST A RAT


PERFECT
I BET THE SUNLIGHT WILL REVEAL WHAT YOU CAN'T SEE IN THE DARK
LOOKS LIKE IT
DO YOU WANT TO FIGURE OUT WHAT IT REALLY IS?
OF COURSE YOU DO REVEALING IT WILL MAKE YOU REMEMBER IT.

!
HAHAHA
GULP
A MOUSE CARVING
I LOVED THIS THING
FATHER MADE IT WHENEVER HE LOCKED ME IN THE CELLAR, HE ALWAYS LET ME HAVE IT
BUT WHY
DIDN'T I—
HE MUST HAVE GIVEN IT TO ME SO THAT I WOULDN'T BE LONELY IN HERE ALL BY MYSELF… SO HE WAS THINKING ABOUT ME…?

Creak
DAD?
DAD!
WHY DIDN'T I REALIZE THAT WHEN I WAS A KID!?
DAD...

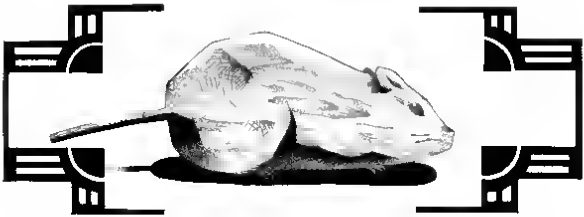
wobble
HAVE YOU THOUGHT THINGS OVER?
IT'S TIME TO COME OUT, KANAU
clatter
!!
clatter
KANAU!!
SLAM
SLAM
DAD?!
GRGH!
AH!
DAD, STOP!
IF YOU DON'T MOVE YOU'LL DIE!

You'll die!!
THUNK
SLIDE

YOU DIDN'T REALLY KILL YOUR FATHER
HE DIED SHIELDING YOU WITH HIS OWN BODY
IF YOU REALLY WANTED PROOF OF YOUR FATHER'S LOVE THERE WAS ONE OTHER THING THAT PROVED IT
MY DAD MADE UP HIS MIND BACK THEN NOT TO MOVE
THINKING THAT THE REASON IT WOULDN'T MOVE WAS BECAUSE OF HIS HATRED
I REALLY AM A FOOL
HE WAS ACTUALLY WORRIED ABOUT ME HURTING MYSELF
HE WAS USING THE BROKEN FLOWERS AS A METAPHOR
THE VASE, RIGHT ?
I UNDER-STAND IT NOW

tug
pull
HAHA — IT WON'T MOVE
HERE, YOU CAN HAVE IT
BUT YOU SAW IT
YOU SURE?
YEAH, I DON'T NEED IT ANY-MORE.
SINCE
IT'S JUST A SCRAP OF THE LOVE FATHER HAD FOR ME
Pull

IT WON'T MOVE...!
Time to wake up.



ON TOP OF THE SHOCK OF HIS DEATH MADE KANAU LOSE HIS MEMORY
HE ALWAYS THOUGHT HIS FATHER HATED HIM, SO WHAT HIS FATHER DID ...

JUST LIKE THE KANJI FOR HIS FATHER THAT WOULD NEVER MOVE,
BUT THE WOODEN RAT MADE HIM REMEMBER-

HEY, HIRUKO.
CAN I KEEP THIS? IT'S CUTE
NOPE
GA~AN
WHY NOT!?
IT WAS A SYMBOL OF HIS FATHER'S LOVE. A FATHER WHO DESPERATELY TRIED TO PROTECT HIM.

IT CAME FROM THE DREAM, AND SINCE I ATE THE DREAM, IT'LL DISAPPEAR SOON...
REALLY...
BUT...
THE PROOF OF HIS FATHER'S LOVE THAT HE DISCOVERED...
WILL LIVE ON IN HIS MEMORIES FOREVER

Yumekui Kenbun
volume 1 chapter 6

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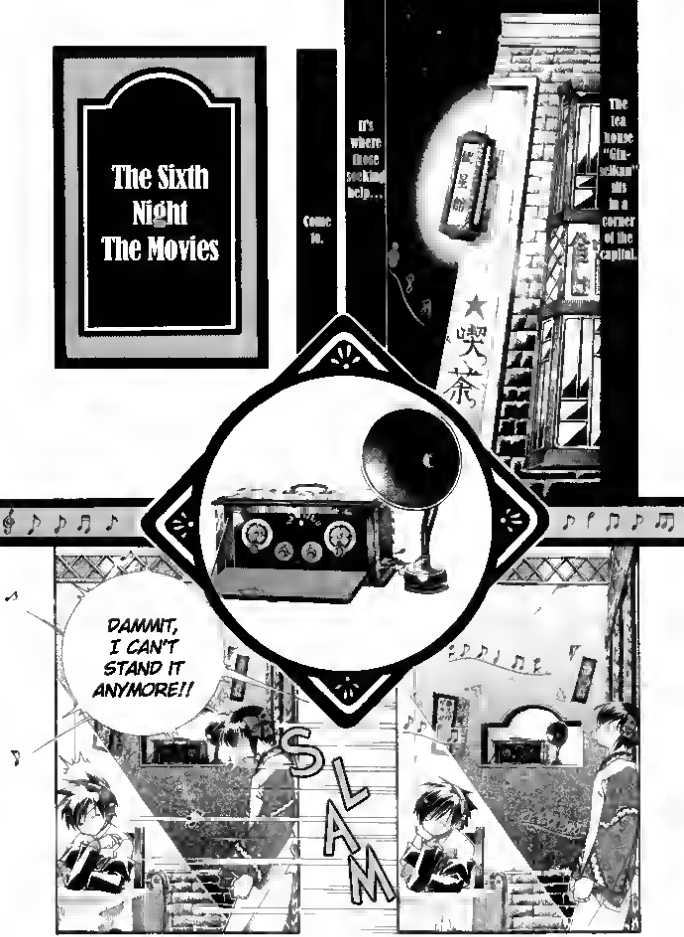
The Sixth Night
The Movies
Come to.
It's where those seeking help...
The tea house "Ginsekisou" sits in a corner of the capital.
喫茶
DAMMIT, I CAN'T STAND IT ANYMORE!!
SLAM

WHY DO BENIPANA AND THAT GUY HAVE TO—!?
I'M KAGESA TOMEO!
YOU'VE GOT TO KEEP HER FROM DOING IT!
Calm down
LIM. KAGESA, ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT THE ACTRESS BENIPANA?
THAT'S RIGHT!
Hey, are you that "Baku" Hiruko!?
Help me out with my night-mare!
And we were just relaxing
shake
shake

LOVE'S DELUSION
HEHE, SHE'S SO CUTE~
LOOKS LIKE HE'S A FANATIC
we gotta see her face a hundred times each day
SHE'S THE FAMOUS ACTRESS WHO'S STARRED IN FIVE FILMS ALREADY!
The Night of Illusions
MAKINO BENIPANA!
SO WHAT'S THE DREAM ABOUT?
OH YEAH!
SFX: SMACK
RIGHT NOW THERE'S A FILM OF HER'S PLAYING AT THE ASAKUSA THEATER, "THE NIGHT OF ILLUSIONS." I KEEP SEEING THIS ONE SCENE FROM THE FILM OVER AND OVER
WHICH ONE?
IT'S WHEN BENIPANA AND HER LOVER RUN OFF TOGETHER AND THEN JUMP OFF A CLIFF IN A DOUBLE SUICIDE.
I ALSO GO AND SEE IT A LOT IN THE ACTUAL THEATRE, THOUGH
BUT...

HER COSTAR KAYAMA HIKONOJOU IS A FAMOUS ACTOR IN HIS OWN RIGHT

THIS PICTURE STARTED RUMORS ABOUT THEM BEING TOGETHER.
YOU KNOW.

JUMP

NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES I SEE IT, I'LL NEVER FORGIVE HIM! MY LOVELY BENIPANA GOING OUT HOLDING ANOTHER MAN'S HAND..!
WHY DOESN'T HE STOP HER!? IF THAT WERE ME, I'D GET THROUGH ANY-THING WITH HER AT MY SIDE!
CLENCH
BUT THAT'S THE FILM'S PLOT

I'M JUST ONE OF THE MANY PEOPLE SITTING IN THE THEATRE, STARING INTO HER EYES.
I KNOW THAT NO MATTER HOW MUCH MY FEELINGS FOR HER GROW, SHE'S A FAMOUS MOVIE STAR...
...I KNOW.

BUT IN THE DREAM, I'M JUST A BYSTANDER.
I PROBABLY HAVE THIS DREAM BECAUSE I'M JEALOUS OF KAYAMA.
IT'S THE SAME
BUT IN YOUR DREAM.

MY NIGHTMARE IS JUST LIKE THE SILENT MOVIE.
THE SCREEN IS ALWAYS BETWEEN THEM AND I, AND IT'S A WALL THAT I CAN'T GET PAST.

UNABLE TO SPEAK, ALL I CAN DO IS WATCH HER DEATH OVER AND OVER---

HELPLESSLY WATCHING THE WOMAN I LOVE KEEP DYING— I CAN'T TAKE IT ANYMORE —
IN THE REAL FILM, THE NARRATOR WOULD BE FILLING IN THE WORDS FOR THE ACTORS, BUT

SURE
SHOULDN'T YOU BE ABLE TO CROSS THE WALL AND TALK IN THE NIGHT-MARE?
...SINCE YOU'RE NOT REALLY INVOLVED AND YOU'RE A BAKU.
SO WHAT DO YOU WANT FROM ME?
I'M BEGGING YOU! TAKE MY PLACE AND STOP HER FROM DOING IT!
TELL HER: "YOU CAN'T DIE! NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS, LIVE ON!"
THEN PLEASE PASS A MESSAGE ON TO HER!
...OKAY, I'LL STOP HER.
...
IT JUST HURTS SO MUCH...

flare
Sleep, and leave reality behind

YOU CAN'T DIE.
NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS, LIVE ON.

THAT'S KAGESA TOMEO, YOUR BIGGEST FAN.
I'M SPEAKING FOR HIM
I CAME TO SAVE YOU BECAUSE HE ASKED ME TO.
BENIFANA, IF YOU DIE HE'LL BE IN HORRIBLE PAIN

Time to wake up.

I CAN'T BELIEVE IT!!
I'M GLAD IT WORKED OUT KAGESA.
I'M SURE SHE REALIZED HOW MUCH I LOVE HER!
CHOK
IT'S LIKE A DREAM!
BENIPANA HUGGED ME...!
NOW YOU WON'T HAVE TO SEE THAT NIGHTMARE ANYMORE
IT WAS A DREAM
I BET I'LL HAVE JUST ONE AMAZING SCENE REPEAT OVER AND OVER. THANKS SO MUCH, HIRUKO.
Ahh.
NOW WE'LL HAVE A NEW ACT IN OUR DREAM MOVIE.

ANYWAY, I'LL MAKE SURE TO HAVE A NICE DREAM FOR YOU!!
SAB
YAK
DASH
rub rub
OH! OR IS IT THAT BAKU CAN'T LOVE ANYONE?
PAT
THAT'S GOTTA SUCK!
ha ha ha
THAT'S SO BORING! YOU'VE GOT TO FALL IN LOVE TOO!
NO NEED TO THANK ME, I GOT A NIGHTMARE TO EAT OUT OF IT...
ISN'T LOVE WONDERFUL!?
roll
roll
HE WAS NICE
KIND OF
SLAM
WE INTERRUPT THIS BROADCAST WITH BREAKING NEWS...
jolt
jolt
We can finally listen in peace.

EARLY THIS MORNING THE DROWNED BODIES OF A MAN AND WOMAN...
WERE DISCOVERED IN THE LAKE AT THE BASE OF THE SO-CALLED WATERFALL OF ILLUSIONS

THE BODIES HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED AS FAMOUS MOVIE STAR MAKINO BENIFANA AND THE EQUALLY FAMOUS KAYAMA HIKONOJOU
No way.

IT'S LIKELY THAT THEY COPIED THE DOUBLE SUICIDE FROM THEIR MOVIE AFTER BEING HARASSED ABOUT THEIR RELATIONSHIP BY COWORKERS
IT HAD BEEN RUMORED FOR SOME TIME THAT THE TWO WERE INTIMATE. THEY WERE DISCOVERED AT THE BASE OF THE WATERFALL USED AS A SET FOR THEIR RECENT MOVIE

pull
TONIGHT'S DREAM SHOULD BE GREAT!
SHE'S ACCEPTED MY FEELINGS

HEHE~

PL
P

I'M OFF TO SEE YOU, BENIPANA...
FIDGET
FIDGET
Z z z z
Z z z z

BREAKING NEWS:

CONTAINED SOME FAULTY INFORMATION...
WE REGRET TO INFORM YOU THAT OUR ANNOUNCEMENT REGARDING THE DEATHS OF MAKINO BENIFANA AND KAYAMA HIKONOJOU A FEW DAYS AGO

AT FIRST IT APPEARED THAT THEIR DEATH WAS A DOUBLE SUICIDE, HOWEVER...

WITH THE INSPECTION OF KAYAMA'S DIARY, IT HAS BECOME EVIDENT THAT HE WAS FORCED INTO THE DOUBLE SUICIDE BY MAKINO.

March 28th

She's truly a pitiable woman. She's played many roles as an actress, and all the personalities she's transformed into have caused her to lose sight of her own. "No matter where I look, I cannot find me! The real me is dead! Who exactly am I continuing on for?" She said that the only way she could recover was to give herself in death.

Despite that, I have no intention of giving into her wishes and following her.

ACCORDING TO KAYAMA'S DIARY,
MAKINO HAD AN OBSESSION WITH SUICIDE,

AND SHE'D COMPELLED COUNTLESS OTHERS WHO WORSHIPPED HER...

TO KILL THEMSELVES
....

Yumekui Kenbun
volume 1 chapter 7
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Lybi
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Kamitsuki
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quality check by
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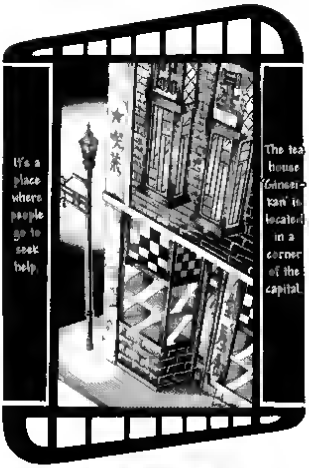
The Seventh Night

Opposite Mirrors
(part one)



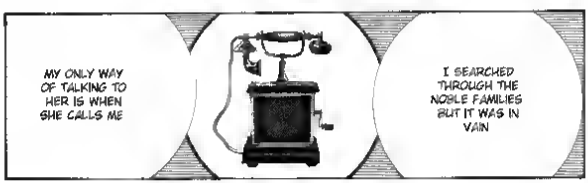
I HEARD THERE'S A 'RAKU HERE...
YES. HE'S OVER THERE
WHAT A CHARMING MAN.
ARE YOU HIRUKO?
Slip

I'M NANJOU YOSHINORI.
I'D LIKE TO DISCUSS A NIGHTMARE WITH YOU.
JUST GETTING TO EAT THE NIGHTMARE IS GOOD ENOUGH FOR ME. SO GO AHEAD.
AND OF COURSE, I'LL PAY YOU FOR IT
OKAY...
IT'S LIKE THIS. EVERY NIGHT A LADY CALLS ME
OH, THAT'S RARE!
SORRY I MEAN, HAVING A PHONE AT YOUR HOUSE
YOU MUST BE QUITE WELL-OFF, MR. YOSHINORI

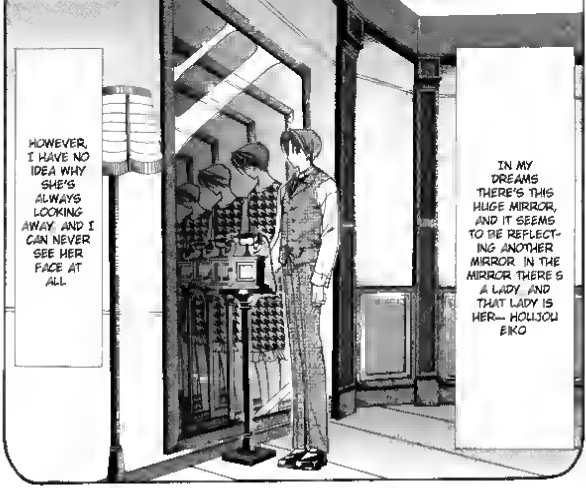
I FELT SO STRONGLY THAT I DECLINED ALL THE MATCH-MAKING SESSIONS ARRANGED BY MY PARENTS JUST FOR HER SAKE.
ANYWAY, AFTER A FEW CALLS AND CONVERSATIONS I FOUND MYSELF COMPLETELY ATTRACTED TO HER.
THE MAIN REASON IS... SHE'S SO MUCH LIKE ME.
THE LADY'S FAMILY SEEMS LIKE MINE— SHE'S EITHER NOBILITY,
NOBILITY?
OR SOME WEALTHY AND WELL-BROUGHT UP LADY...
I CAN JUST IMAGINE HOW MATURE AND BEAUTIFUL SHE IS.
...FROM HER NOBLE, PRESTIGIOUS BACKGROUND,
TO HER STEADY-PACED WAY OF
HIDING HER CHARISMATIC YET PASSIONATE PERSONALITY.
HAHA... SIMPLY PERFECT.

BECAUSE I'VE NEVER SEEN HER IN PERSON BEFORE
ALL THESE ARE JUST MY DEDUC-TIONS
HOW-EVER...

SHE'S ONLY TOLD ME THAT HER NAME IS HOUJOU EIKO', AND OTHER THAN THAT, SHE REFUSED TO TELL ME HER ADDRESS OR HER BACKGROUND
NO MATTER WHAT THE CIRCUMSTANCES, WHENEVER I TELL HER I WANT TO MEET HER, SHE TURNS ME DOWN WITHOUT A REASON...


MY ONLY WAY OF TALKING TO HER IS WHEN SHE CALLS ME
I SEARCHED THROUGH THE NOBLE FAMILIES BUT IT WAS IN VAIN

AND SO MY DESIRE TO SEE HER KEPT ON INCREASING EVERY DAY— AND THEN MY NIGHTMARES BEGAN


IN MY DREAMS THERE'S THIS HUGE MIRROR, AND IT SEEMS TO BE REFLECTING ANOTHER MIRROR. IN THE MIRROR THERE'S A LADY, AND THAT LADY IS HER— HOUJOU EIKO
HOWEVER, I HAVE NO IDEA WHY SHE'S ALWAYS LOOKING AWAY, AND I CAN NEVER SEE HER FACE AT ALL.

I BEGGED HER TO LOOK AT ME, TO LET ME SEE HER FACE. BUT—

SHE'S ON THE PHONE
SO, WHAT'S EIKO DOING IN THAT DREAM?

OPPOSITE MIRRORS... A LADY WHO KEEPS LOOKING AWAY?

HUG
BUT I CAN'T SEE HER FACE, AND IT'S JUST LIKE REAL LIFE, SINCE I CAN'T MEET HER HERE!
AND THAT ONLY MAKES ME YEARN TO SEE HER MORE!

SHE WAS CALLING ME AS I STOOD OUTSIDE THE MIRROR, AND WE TALKED BUT—

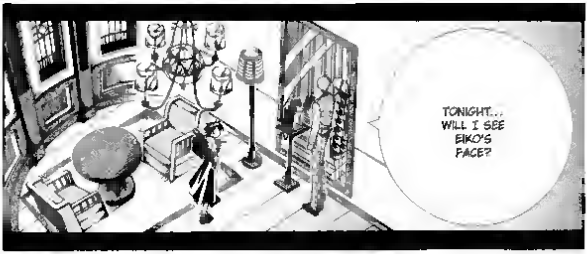
BUT YOSHINORI, DON'T YOU FIND IT STRANGE?
WHAT?

I CAN HELP YOU
CLICK

HIRUKO CAN YOU LET ME SEE BIKO'S FACE?
THOUGH I CAN'T MEET HER FACE TO FACE IN REALITY, CAN YOU AT LEAST FIGURE OUT A WAY FOR ME TO SEE HER IN MY DREAMS?

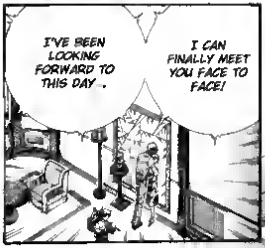
TAP TAP
THE EXISTENCE OF THE OTHER MIRROR
BUT IN YOUR NIGHTMARE THERE'S ONLY ONE
YOU MENTIONED THAT THE MIRROR REFLECTED AN OPPOSITE MIRROR, SO THAT WOULD MEAN THERE ARE TWO MIRRORS.
WHERE DO YOU THINK...
THE OTHER MIRROR IS?

...
Now sleep, and say goodbye to reality for a while.


TONIGHT... WILL I SEE EIKO'S FACE?

Tsuki
...
WHAT'S THAT
IF YOU WOULD, HIRUKO...
...
chink

clunk
Ringgggg
SLASH
CRACK
Hi-
HIRUKO, WHAT ARE YOU DOING


I'VE BEEN LOOKING FORWARD TO THIS DAY...
I CAN FINALLY MEET YOU FACE TO FACE!

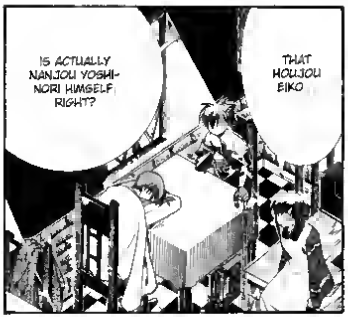
LIFT YOUR HEAD UP. LET ME SEE YOUR FACE!

YES... THIS IS AMAZING

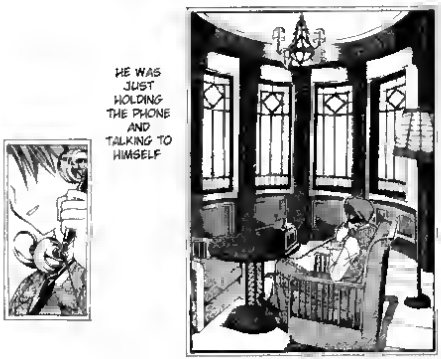
EIKO
EIKO
EIKO!

WHAT I'VE ALWAYS WANTED!
YOU LOOK EXACTLY LIKE I IMAGINED!
YOU TOO, YOSHINORI
YOU HAVE SUCH A BEAUTIFUL FACE
JUST WHAT I'VE ALWAYS WANTED...

Take your time
SORRY HIRUKO, BUT CAN YOU EXCUSE ME?
I KNOW NO NEED TO REMIND ME!
ha haha
I GUESS THIS NIGHTMARE IS OVER, SO I'M OFF


IS ACTUALLY NANJOU YOSHINORI HIMSELF RIGHT?
THAT HOUJOU EIKO
THAT WAS STRAIGHT-FORWARD

AND THAT'S WHY HE FOUND AN IDEAL GIRLFRIEND WITHIN HIMSELF
SO HE'S A NARCISSIST,


HE WAS JUST HOLDING THE PHONE AND TALKING TO HIMSELF
IN REALITY, EIKO IS JUST SOMEONE HE MADE UP YOSHINORI DIDN'T TALK TO ANYONE THROUGH THE PHONE,

THAT OPPOSITE MIRROR, THAT'S SUPPOSED TO BE A PAIR TO THE OTHER, REFLECTED HIMSELF?
AND THE OPPOSITE MIRROR IN HIS DREAMS
BUT IF THE REFLECTION SYMBOLIZES HIS HEART THEN THE FARTHER AWAY THE REFLECTION IS, THE CLOSER IT IS TO HIS HEART, RIGHT?
THE MIRROR REFLECTED YOSHINORI'S HEART SO SINCE YOSHINORI LOVES THE PERSON INSIDE THE MIRROR SO MUCH, THE OPPOSITE MIRROR IS A SIGN OF NARCISSISM. EIKO KEEPS FACING AWAY, INDICATING THAT YOSHINORI IS COMPLETELY UNAWARE OF HIS OWN CONDITION. AND THE EXTENDED IMAGE OF EIKO, SIGNIFIES THE EXTENT OF YOSHINORI'S NARCISSISM.
IN THIS CASE THEN THOSE FARE LIPS, DASH FATHER FARTHER RUN OF THE REF
...

SO THE TWO LOVERS WHO WERE SEPARATED BY THE MIRROR COULD FINALLY BE TOGETHER AFTER YOU BROKE IT RIGHT?
HAHA HE SEEMS VERY HAPPY
AND,
HOUJOU EIKO TOO
chirp
chirp
chirp
IT'S ALREADY MORNING ISN'T HE GOING TO WAKE UP?
LET ME WAKE HIM UP.
YOSHI-NORI, IT'S ALREADY MORNING
YOSHI-NORI.
SHAKE
SHAKE
clack

ERM. EXCUSE ME.
IT'S SO EARLY WHO COULD IT BE?
I'M HOUJOU EIKO—

!!!
EIKO?
HOUJOU

Polaris Eruption

Hello everybody, I'm Shin Mashiba. Thank you for purchasing this book, I really appreciate it. I have no experience in series drawing, and I'm ignorant and always troubling others, but luckily, I've got a chief editor who takes great pains in guiding me, and I wish to offer my most sincere gratitude to my chief editor. And, for my readers who followed my first works all the way till now, thank you very much!

When I'm drawing 'Yumeiku Kenbun' I feel most blissful when I draw the background. As for my characters, one of my regrets was that Ginseikan's waitress' name was not mentioned at all and, chapter 7's story didn't have an ending?

Mr. Shirai WANWAN is always giving me the greatest support, and I invited him to be a VIP. He made those lies sound as though they are real, and his part can be said to be the highlight of this book!

- First generation chief editor
- Second generation: Hajin, Matsushita Sentakashi
- Third generation: Saki Yuuki
- Assistant: Shirai WANWAN, Taketsuchi
- Information Personnel: MOAI, Mamii

Sorry for all that trouble!

夢喰門
GREAT POPULARITY! COMPLETELY ROMANTIC HORROR STORIES~ ♥
there aren't many horror stories to write nowadays huw hong
Shin Mashiba's friend
Shirai WANWAN
The great Shin Mashiba (laughs), congratulations for publishing your first book! For such a beautiful and memorable book, am I suitable enough to be the VIP?
with regards to these standard characters I can't help but feel great when I draw them
To be able to get a page in this book is really an honor so I've decided to write down the thoughts I had while helping Mashiba in her original draft That's right, it's related to what everybody's curious about, Kenbun-kun (that's what I call it) That thing
THIS. Official name is Formalin (56 years old)
Its name will change as it ages:
Formalin→Formalen→Formalon!
curly wool
Formalin's life attachment! If you remove this! die it!
Life is unpredictable, so it must be gripped tightly
Secret device (?)
It will display its incredible powers when Kenbun's hungry! Whether it's in the mountains, the sea, or even in dreams, when it encounters trouble, it can definitely take care of it
Secret stomach
The stomach is also filled with things! However, don't worry everybody, it's just filled with carbonated drinks!
burps
BUUU
Carbonated drinks will push up from below!
WHAT'S HAPPENING!
20 a total
ACK
Look what happened!
DELICIOUS!
Quoted from Kenbun
"On lonely nights when I listen carefully I can hear the carbonated bubbles from within, and so Kenbun isn't lonely anymore because there's bubbles to accompany me"
NOW YOU'RE A KENBUN KNOW-IT-ALL
There are also sweets here, but it's not for Kenbun's liking, so Kenbun rarely eats them
Next time Illustrations Glycerin (It's a secret!) So pay attention! (You feel compelled...)